

PETERSBURG.

DEATH OF A RESPECTED CITIZEN—RELIGIOUS SUNDAY-SCHOOL ASSOCIATION—THE TIMES—IMPROVEMENTS IN PROGRESS—CATHOLIC CEMETERY—MEMORIAL SERVICE, &c.

(Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.)

MARCH 26, 1877.
Mr. A. B. Atkins, formerly and until very recently a citizen of Petersburg, died yesterday morning at his home, in Nottingham county, near Burkeville. The deceased was in the fortieth year of his age, and leaves a widow and four children. He was for several years collector of City Taxes and a prominent member of the Methodist Church. His remains will be brought down to the city to-morrow afternoon, and interred in the cemetery. He had but lately moved to Jeffries' Store and opened business.

The quarterly meeting of the Methodist Sunday-School Union was held yesterday afternoon. Reports from the various schools show that the aggregate organization is about 1,800, with an average attendance of about 1,100. An interesting address on the Bible was delivered by Rev. Mr. Riddick.

Rev. C. H. Ryland, of Richmond, preached to a large congregation at the Second Baptist Church yesterday morning, and in the afternoon addressed the Sunday-School Society of the same church. Mr. Ryland was for several years General Superintendent of the Baptist Sunday schools of the State, and was always at home on occasions of this kind.

Rev. Dr. Witherspoon has returned home from Mississippi very much improved. As an illustration of the spirit of the times, it may be mentioned that one of our leading druggists furnishes a day or two ago was ordered a full line of goods by a New York house, with whom they had never had any transactions, on any reasonable credit they might desire.

A good deal of improvement is going on in Petersburg. The old front and rear of the city are having the old fronts removed and handsome new ones put in, and many of our old buildings are brightening up under the touch of the painter's brush. A number of new houses have been contracted for—work to commence as soon as the weather opens.

The Catholics of this city have recently purchased a tract of land in Blanford, to be devoted to the uses of a cemetery. It is to be enclosed at once with a neat brick wall on the front line, and the ground is to be laid out in avenues, walkways, and squares. The tract is about one-half mile long, and the colored people, all have cemeteries in the same vicinity.

At St. John's (Episcopal) church, yesterday afternoon, Rev. Thomas Spencer delivered a memorial sermon on the Rev. J. W. Magill, formerly rector of the church, who died last night, after a short illness, at his home, in the north of Ireland. The character and ministry of the deceased were ably reviewed.

D. H. Chamberlain, the Radical claimant for the governorship of South Carolina, is expected to pass through the city to-night on his way to Washington.

ROBIN ADAMS.

STANTON.

THE CHURCHES—SUNDAY-SCHOOL—WESTERN LUNATIC ASYLUM—THE MOFFETT PUNCH BILL—TAKING DOWN A FLAG, &c.

(Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.)

After a showery April day the weather has settled into a steady rain, which is falling when this is mailed, with a prospect of several days of it.

The churches yesterday were well attended; the only thing out of the usual order being a sermon delivered by Rev. Mr. McDuff, of the Second Presbyterian church, before the Young Men's Christian Association. It was an eloquent effort, and the handsome little church was filled to its utmost capacity.

Yesterday, after Mr. William B. Johnson, an old and well-known citizen, had retired from the dinner-table, he experienced a stroke of paralysis, affecting one entire side. Last night he was still speechless, but was quite conscious.

The workmen are progressing with the foundation of the additional building to the Lunatic Asylum.

A well-known saloon-keeper here, after hearing of the passage of the Moffett punch bill, remarked that it was the best thing ever done for the bar-keepers; for, said he, "it puts a stop to the crookedness of the law, and gives me a chance to get the money I make."

The Hayes and Wheeler flag-pole was taken down Saturday afternoon. There was a gathering of colored people to witness the occurrence.

Miss Nellie Burr, of Richmond, who received a fatal stab in the eye from the explosion of a blast on the street last week, is quite recovered.

JAMES CITY.

THE POLITICAL EXCITEMENT—ORDER IN WAR-SAW—THE FARM—THE SEXING—OUR CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR.

(Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.)

MARCH 24, 1877.
During the three months' reign of uncertainty we country people have had no taste for anything but politics. The new law, "Robber Adam," received hardly a passing glance. The debate on the oyster-tax fell upon ears as dead as this excellent bivalve. Our eyes, minds, and hearts were turned in the direction of Washington.

Your correspondent has not been able to get a telegram sent but bring up the same news, expressed in the same words, and which would devour the columns of each, and thrust for more of the same sort. Now that the new order of things has commenced we are getting more under control, and better prepared to listen to each other's chat.

Our wheat and winter oats are looking well. The two-horse farmers have well-nigh finished following and sowing spring oats. The one-horse fellows are making good headway, but as for the single-bull scrappers, well, they have no time to wait for their horses. They will have to wait for the grass to fatten their team. Of course they will not make anything, but then they will have the pleasure of uttering the well-worn words, "We have tried."

Shad are beginning to put in their appearance, but it is hardly worth said that they have "paled out." The wild ducks are pretty well all gone—i.e., indeed, they have ever come. Who can tell the cause of the falling off of the winter's supply of this splendid bird? Let the same decrease continue a few years and the wild duck will be a curiosity among us. The robins are just come, but the strong arm of the law is upon our guns. If not permitted to kill these birds during the spring months our interference with their increase will be feeble indeed.

The severity of the winter has consumed nearly all of our provender. Consequently we are expecting to create a considerable activity in the leather market.

The infantry have had their Governor. The cavalry are now crying out for the man whose headquarters were in the saddle.

PETERSBURG.

[All right. We shan't dissent.]
A FIRE BRIGADE FOR YOKOHAMA.—New York, March 24.—The rumor is current at the headquarters of the Fire Department to the effect that the Japanese Government had, through their consul, applied to the Board of Fire Commissioners to be allowed to enlist two hundred of the firemen of this city for a term of three years. They wish to take them to Yokohama and there employ them to instruct the natives in the art of saving life and property from burning buildings.

Judge Bond locked up the jury in the Rives-Farish case Friday night at the courthouse, and kept them all night in duress. Their accommodations were not very sumptuous. They were confined to cold water and hard-bottom chairs. They had no supper nor whereupon to repose.—*Lynchburg Virginian.*

NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

GOVERNOR HAMPTON'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT HAYES.

The Situation in Washington.

THE HUNGRY OFFICE-SEEKERS TURNING THEIR FACES HOMEWARD—SHURE NOT TO GO TO BERLIN—HAMPTON TO ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON THURSDAY—RANDALL ENDORSED AS NEXT SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE—WHAT HAYES THINKS OF THE NICHOLLS COURTS IN LOUISIANA—HE SAYS, ACCORDING TO PACKARD'S STATEMENT, THAT THEY ARE RENDERING WORTHLESS JUDGMENTS—GRANT MAKES A CHARACTERISTIC SPEECH AT CINCINNATI—A CRUEL NEW YORK HUSBAND—CRIMES AND CASUALTIES—LOSS OF THE NEW STEAMER ROCKAWAY—FOR KIDNAP NEWS—ALARMING CONDITION OF THE POPE, &c. &c.

(From Our Regular Correspondent.)

THOSE PROMISES FOR HOME-RULE IN THE SOUTH.

WASHINGTON, March 26.—A sensation was produced in this city by the announcement that Matthews and Foster had given written guarantees to Senator Gordon and other southerners, pledging home-rule in the South if Mr. Hayes succeeded to the presidency. Most of those in possession of the facts decline to give any information, because, they say, it was altogether a confidential matter. General Gordon says he saw the pledges referred to, but does not think there was any specific promise to remove the troops from Louisiana or South Carolina, nor any evidence that Mr. Hayes authorized the agreement, and he does not think Senator Sherman signed it.

FROM ANOTHER SOURCE.

It is learned that Senators Gordon and Johnston insisted upon positive assurances from gentlemen supposed to be Mr. Hayes's intimate friends and semi-official representatives, that the southern States should be treated exactly as other States are by the National Government; and that Matthews, Foster, and Garfield wrote letters to that effect, and the understanding, on the part of Democrats at least, was that the troops would be withdrawn, and South Carolina and Louisiana left to settle their own affairs. The endorsement which Mr. Hayes said to have made appears to have been simply a letter to Foster, of Ohio, heartily approving of his speech in the House, in which Foster declared in circular style that:

HAYES WOULD ADMINISTER THE GOVERNMENT WITHOUT REGARD TO SECTIONS,

and aim to do justice to everybody. General Garfield and Senator Sherman certainly made verbal pledges of the same kind to southern Democrats, if they did not actually commit their promises to paper. And it was this coating of sweet promises that enabled very many Democrats to swallow the bitter pill, defeat, with scarcely a wry face.

To-day there is a better feeling among Democrats here after thinking over the situation. They feel they practically have the South Carolina and Louisiana difficulties under their own control through the army bill, which, they say, will certainly not be passed at the extra session without a proviso forbidding the use of the army to sustain State governments in the two distracted States unless the President shall have previously withdrawn the army to its legitimate uses.

Radical Republicans and Democrats are PLEASED WITH THE PRESIDENT'S FALTERING IN HIS SOUTHERN POLICY.

and indisposition to appoint conservative Democrats to offices in the South. The former say he will soon be forced back into the only safe course for a Republican President to follow—the support of southern Republicans and maintenance of strict party lines in the distribution of Federal patronage everywhere.

The few Democrats who feared their party might lose much of its strength and perhaps the control of the next Congress, by an abrupt termination of Grantism, have regained confidence. Men of both these classes are very unsafe leaders, and the wonder is that they have followers.

THE ARMY OF OFFICE-SEEKERS IS RAPIDLY DIMINISHING.

under the influence of the prospective promulgation of rules for civil-service reform, and of the polite discouragements received from the President and his Secretaries.

There is a noticeable falling off in the crowd of Virginians of both parties that flocked to this city soon after the inauguration. Most of them have gone home with blighted hopes and empty pockets, but wiser if not better men. The few Virginia Republicans, who linger about the hotels and departments, or venture within the precincts of the White House, still hope to find

SOME UNPICKED BONES TO SUSTAIN THEIR WASTED FRAMES.

No far their own disagreements have worked their discomfiture and offered the only chance for conservative Democrats to slip into office. All appear to have settled down to the conclusion that Miss Van Lew will be permitted to hold the Richmond post-office, at least until the President has time to discriminate judiciously between the conflicting claims of Republicans.

About the only thing they agree upon in regard to this office is that to give it to Miss Van Lew is to throw away the influence it might exert in behalf of the Republican party if a shrewd politician should have control of it for a few years; yet scarcely any two agree as to who would be the best man for the place. One said to to-day: "The fact is, we have scarcely a competent man who has not already a better place."

SENATOR ALLAN CONSUL TO ENGLAND—MISS VAN LEW.

Senator Edgar Allan, of Farmville, left here to-day feeling sure of obtaining the consulship at Bradford, England. This is about the only instance of a Republican application for office from Virginia without opposition from another Republican of the State.

Petitions setting forth why Miss Van Lew should and should not be reappointed were filed at the Post-Office Department to-day.

[Associated Press Reports by telegraph to the Dispatch.]

THE PROMISE TO RECOGNIZE THE NICHOLLS AND GRANT GOVERNMENTS.

The New York Times has the following special: "There seems now to be no doubt of the truth of the statement that Messrs. Stanley Matthews and Charles Foster, of Ohio, pending the counting of the electoral vote in Congress, entered into a contract with a number of southern Democrats by which it was agreed that if they (the Democrats) would aid in completing the count and receiving the inauguration of Mr. Hayes as President, the governments of Nicholls in Louisiana and Hampton in South Carolina would be recognized by the new Administration."

There is no question that in making these pledges Messrs. Foster and Matthews pretended they were authorized to do so by Mr. Hayes. They had no right to do this, for the President knew nothing of this con-

tract or of the pledges which they were making in his name.

It has been personally ascertained that in Washington that Matthews and Foster had allowed themselves to be a party to an agreement of the kind mentioned. The first intimation of the compact was given by Mr. Levy, of Louisiana, who, in a speech delivered in the House on the 1st of March, opposed President Grant's resolution, which demanded the return from the Senate of the alleged second certificate from Vermont. In this speech Mr. Levy said: "The people of Louisiana have solemn, earnest, and I believe truthful, assurances from prominent members of the Republican party, and the confidence of Mr. Hayes that in the event of his election to the presidency he will be guided by a policy of conciliation toward the southern States; that he will not use the Federal authority or army to force upon these States governments not of their choice, but in the case of those States will leave their hands off, and will not interfere with the past course of the people in the matter peacefully of themselves. This, too, is the opinion of President Grant, which he freely expresses, and which I am satisfied he will carry out and adhere to. Under these circumstances, pretermittent at least at this time any discussion of the manner and means by which Mr. Hayes may secure the presidency, satisfied from the action of Congress that his accession to the office is well-nigh an accomplished fact, I do not hesitate, for the reasons before said, to declare that, actuated by a sense of duty to Louisiana, I shall not oppose, by any action or vote of mine, in the way of the completion of the electoral count; but relying on the good faith, the integrity, and the truthfulness of the gentlemen who have given these assurances, and having faith in their individual person, I shall not withhold my support from this duty, and call upon those of my fellow-members who have been influenced in their action on this question by a desire to protect Louisiana and South Carolina to join me in the course which I feel called upon and justified in pursuing."

At the time this speech was delivered it created some excitement and a great deal of comment, but since the adjournment of the matter has been forgotten and lost sight of until recently, when it was reported by those in a condition to know that Mr. Levy had been a party to a contract or agreement with Matthews and Foster whereby the recognition of Hampton and Nicholls was to be assured. These reports were published, and neither Mr. Matthews or Mr. Foster has denied them.

FOR SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE.

Fernando Wood favors Randall for next Speaker of the House.

FARIOUS ITEMS.

It was Paul J. Strohecker who was appointed receiver of public money at Montgomery, Ala.

The Secretary has issued his civil-service rules. All cases of incompetency and neglect must be reported and promotions come from the lower grades, and officers carefully distributed equally throughout the States in proportion to population. All applicants will be subjected to the examination provided by section 164 of the Revised Statutes. Schurz has no intention of going to Berlin.

Colonel Levy declines to furnish the Stanley Matthews-Foster letter, but his publication is authorized by the other gentlemen.

The Louisiana commission will consist of five members. It is claimed three have been secured, but Governor Brown is the only name known.

South Carolina.

GOVERNOR HAMPTON'S REPLY TO PRESIDENT HAYES.

COLEMAN, S. C., March 26.—Governor Hampton received yesterday (Sunday) the letter of President Hayes inviting him to Washington. To-day he has written in reply the following letter:

TO HIS EXCELLENCY R. B. HAYES, President of the United States, Washington, D. C.: Sir,—I have the honor to acknowledge your communication of the 23d instant, addressed to me by your private secretary. As you express a desire for a personal conference with myself, I accept your invitation, and have extended, though I cannot hope by doing so to throw additional light on the questions which have already been so ably and thoroughly presented, and the solution of which is so obvious and simple. But the communication I have received that the object contemplated by the proposed conference is solely that I might place before you my views of the impediments to the peaceful and orderly organization of a single and undisputed government, and that to this end I should be permitted to remove them, I shall avail myself of your invitation, so that I may reiterate in person what I have had the honor to submit in writing—that in my judgment the only way to settle the present situation is by the removal of the impediments to the peaceful and orderly organization of a single and undisputed government, and that to this end I should be permitted to remove them, I shall avail myself of your invitation, so that I may reiterate in person what I have had the honor to submit in writing—that in my judgment the only way to settle the present situation is by the removal of the impediments to the peaceful and orderly organization of a single and undisputed government, and that to this end I should be 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